

Biodiversity Record: Brown anoles at Yishun and Toa Payoh

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Subjects: Brown anole, *Anolis sagrei* (Reptilia: Squamata: Dactyloidae).

Subjects identified by: Andrew Tay.

Locations, dates and times: Singapore Island —

- 1) Yishun, Bah Soon Pah Road; 6 February 2021; 1100 hrs.
- 2) Toa Payoh Central, outdoor atrium of HDB Hub; 3 June 2021; around 0900 hrs.

Habitats:

- 1) Suburban parkland; ornamental plant nursery (Fig. 1).
- 2) Urban setting among concrete buildings and ornamental vegetation.

Observers: Andrew Tay (Yishun and Thomson) and Joseph Lim (Toa Payoh).

Observations:

- 1) One example of about 8 cm total length was hiding among potted plants on nursery sale shelves (Fig. 1).
- 2) One individual of about 10 cm total length was found on a corner of the rim of a concrete planter box (Fig. 2).

Remarks: Bah Soon Pah Road and Toa Payoh Central are two new localities on Singapore Island where sightings of the brown anole have been documented. Thus far, this non-native reptile has been reported from parkland and plant nurseries at Marina Bay (Leong & Lim, 2015, as *Norops sagrei*; Tan & Zhou, 2016, as *Norops sagrei*); Bishan (Woo & Wee, 2015, as *Norops sagrei*); Botanic Gardens (Tan et al., 2017, as *Norops sagrei*); Thomson Road (Tay, 2019); Kovan (Goh & Seah, 2020) and Jurong Lake Gardens (Cai & Wu, 2020).

In a separate sighting, two individuals were seen in close proximity to each other on nursery sale shelves in a plant nursery along Thomson Road, opposite MacRitchie Reservoir Park, on 5 March 2021 at 1600 hrs (Fig. 3). Tay (2019) had earlier recorded the species from that area.

Literature cited:

Cai H & Wu Z (2020) Brown anoles at Jurong Lake Gardens. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2020: 147–148.

Goh ESC & Seah RWX (2020) Observation of a brown anole at the Kovan area. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2020: 190.

Leong KWC & Lim KKP (2015) Brown anoles mating at Marina Bay. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2015: 123–124.

Tan CLY, Chua JLE & Woo HPM (2017) Brown anole at the Singapore Botanic Gardens. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2017: 48.

Tan HH & Zhou H (2016) Male brown anoles displaying at Gardens by the Bay. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2016: 171–172.

Tay A (2019) Brown anole in a plant nursery at Thomson Road. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2019: 82.

Woo WX & Wee SXR (2015) Brown anole at Bishan. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2015: 61.



Fig. 1. View of the plant sales section of the nursery at Bah Soon Pah Road, with inset showing the brown anole hiding among the plants. (Photographs by: Andrew Tay).



Fig. 2. View of a planter box at HDB Hub, Toa Payoh Central, showing the lone brown anole at the corner of the ledge. The photograph on the right shows a closer view of the anole. (Screenshots from video clip recorded by: Joseph Lim).

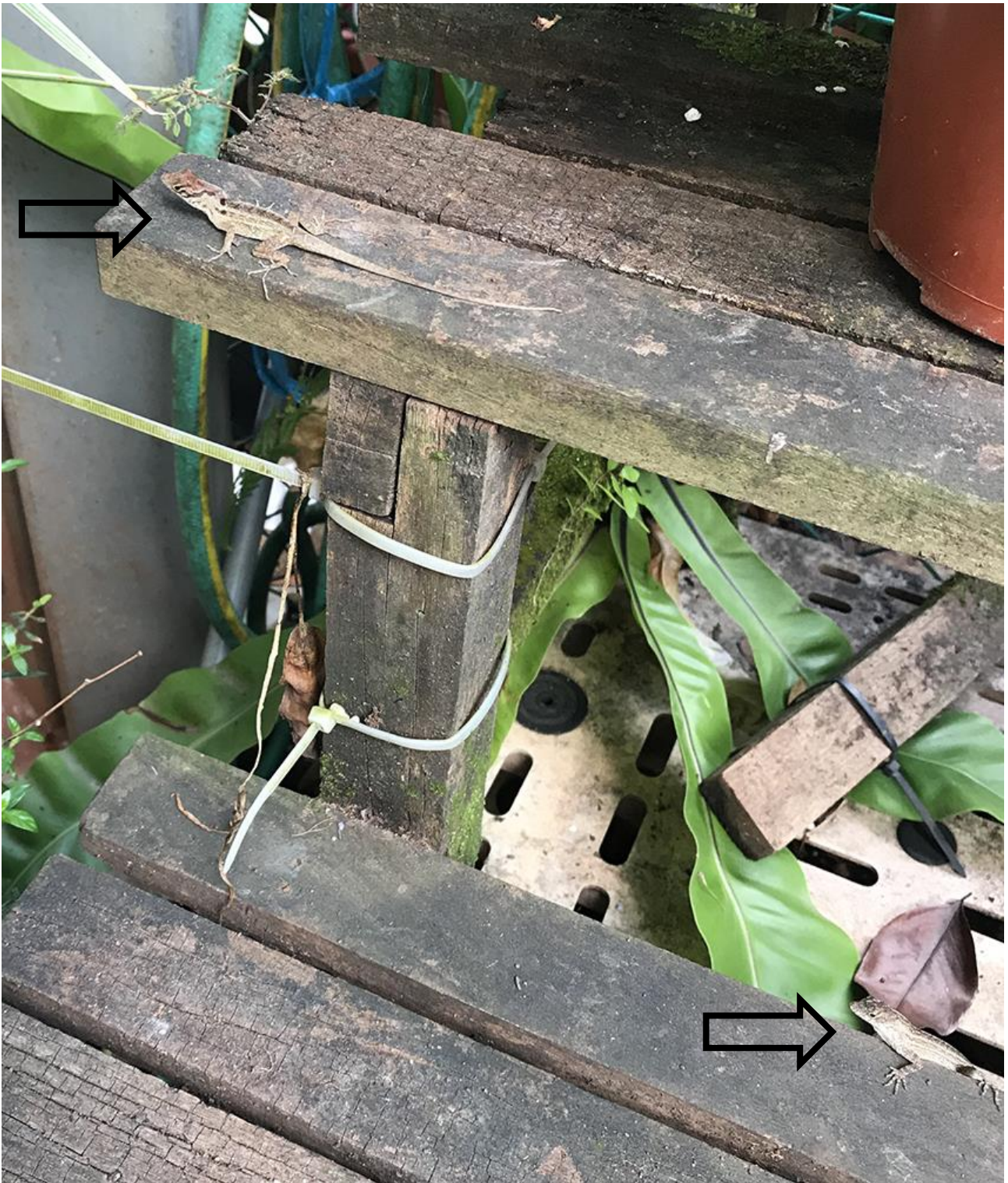


Fig. 3. Two brown anoles (indicated by arrows) on plant sale shelves at a nursery along Thomson Road on 5 March 2021. (Photograph by: Andrew Tay).